

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 IO-10

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R 092129Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0276

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0101

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, BP, PP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF BSIP CHIEF MINISTER

REF: PORT MORESBY 0079

1. GPNG HAS ROLLED OUT THE RED CARPET FOR BSIP CHIEF MINISTER MAMALONI, BUT ONLY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE THAT SEEMS TO HAVE ARISEN IS BORDER. SHORTLAND ISLANDS (WESTERN SOLOMONS) ARE ONLY TWO MILES FROM PNG ISLANDS OFF BOUGAINVILLE, AND MAMALONI WANTED BORDER CROSSING RESTRICTIONS EASED FOR TRADE AND VISITS.

2. PRIOR TO VISIT DFRT WAS NEGATIVE TO THIS PROPOSAL, POINTING OUT THAT FREE ACCESS TO BOUGAINVILLE WOULD LEAD UNEMPLOYED SOLOMON ISLANDERS TO SEEK WORK IN PNG.

3. MAMALONI, IN PRESS CONFERENCE, CALLED FOR PNG TO ESTABLISH A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN HONIARA, AND SAID HE WANTED TO SEE A BSIP OFFICE SET UP IN PORT MORESBY EVENTUALLY. PNG CHIEF MINISTER SOMARE SAID
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SUBSEQUENTLY PNG WOULD LIKE TO OPEN A CONSULATE IN

HONIARA, BUT NO FUNDS WERE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE AND WOULD HAVE TO BE SOUGHT.

4. MAMALONI STRESSED POINT THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO CREATE GOOD WILL AND DEVELOP CLOSER TIES BETWEEN BSIP AND PNG.

5. WHEN ASKED ABOUT BSIP INDEPENDENCE AT PRESS CONFERENCE MAMALONI DUCKED THE QUESTION SAYING "WE DON'T WORRY ABOUT DATES." WHEN PRESSED HE SAID PERHAPS INDEPENDENCE WOULD COME IN HIS LIFETIME.

6. SOMARE GAVE MU-MU IN MAMALONI'S HONOR JANUARY 30, AND THE ATMOSPHERE OOZED OF GOOD WILL AND MELANESIAN FRIENDSHIP. IN SPEECHES, SOMARE AND MAMALONI PLAYED BIG BROTHER/LITTLE BROTHER ROLES, SOMARE PROMISING TO HELP BSIP TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE AND MAMALONI SAYING HE HAD LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT BEING A CHIEF MINISTER FROM SOMARE.

7. BOTH SOMARE AND MAMALONI MADE A NUMBER OF DIGS AT BRITISH DURING SPEECHES AT MU-MU. SOMARE MADE COMPARISON OF BRITISH AND AUSTRALIANS, TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE BRITISH. MAMALONI SAID HE HOPED BSIP WOULD LOSE TWO OF ITS INITIALS SOON AND BECOME SI.

8. MAMALONI WILL SPEND ONE DAY IN HONG KONG AND CONTINUE ON TO TOKYO FOR WHAT HIS STAFF DESCRIBED AS AN OFFICIAL VISIT OF EIGHT DAYS. NEW JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL INFORMED ME, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS A PRIVATE VISIT. AFTER THE VERY WARM WELCOME IN PNG, MAMALONI MAY HAVE A LET-DOWN IN TOKYO.

9. FROM TOKYO MAMALONI WILL GO TO SYDNEY FOR A DAY AND THEN ON TO WELLINGTON FOR A WEEK.

10. THIS IS HIS FIRST TRIP ABROAD SINCE BECOMING CHIEF MINISTER. WHAT HE LEARNED IN PORT MORESBY WILL PROBABLY GIVE CONSIDERABLE IMPETUS TO BSIP SELF-GOVERNMENT.

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